

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

14. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a coating on an electrically conductive component, comprising the following steps:

inserting the component into a holder that fixes the component outside a section to be coated;

enabling of magnetic field generation means for generating a magnetic field that generates forces that act contactless on the component in such a way that the component floats freely at least in the section to be coated; and

coating the component.

15. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the magnetic field generation means are provided with electrical connection means and an electrical conductor arrangement of at least one electrical conductor that extends below or above the component in the direction of the component, whereby, prior to the enabling step, the component is connected outside of the section to be coated with end sections by way of the electrical connection means, and whereby the enabling of the magnetic field generation means is performed by way of a parallel or anti-parallel power supply to the conductor arrangement and component.

16. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the number, arrangement, and shape of the electrical conductor of the conductor arrangement is chosen so that the generated magnetic field essentially compensates the gravity-induced bending of the component at least in the section to be coated.

17. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the number, arrangement, and shape of the electrical conductor of the conductor arrangement is chosen so that the generated magnetic field centers the component transversely to its extension direction and transversely to the force of gravity.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein support means are provided that support the component at least in the section to be coated against gravity-induced bending, whereby these support means are removed or disabled during the coating step.

19. (New) A fixation and positioning device for fixing and positioning a component while applying a process, wherein the component is one selected from the group consisting of a direct current supplied component, a permanently magnetic component, and a direct current supplied permanently magnetic component, the component being subjectable to a first magnetic field, the device comprising:

a first mechanical fixation means and a second mechanical fixation means, spaced a distance apart from each other, and arranged and adapted to receive the component between the first and the second mechanical fixation means; and a

magnetic field generation device arranged and adapted to generate a second magnetic field, which, in co-action with the first magnetic field, effects a force to support the component against its gravitational force along a distance between the first mechanical fixation means and the second mechanical fixation means.

20. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the magnetic field generation device is arranged and adapted such that the forces co-effected by the magnetic fields comprise field components which are oriented transversely to the gravitational force and act symmetrically on the component, thus centering the component.

21. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the magnetic field generation device is constructed and dimensioned such that the magnitude of the forces co-effected by the first and second magnetic fields essentially compensate a gravity induced bending of the component along the distance between the first and the second mechanical fixation means.

22. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the magnetic field generation device is arranged essentially between the first and second mechanical fixation means.

23. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, the magnetic field generation device extending essentially in the same direction as the component to be held by the first and the second mechanical fixation means.

24. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, the magnetic field generation device comprising a member made from a permanently magnetic ferromagnetic material.

25. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, the magnetic field generation device comprising an electrically conductive member, said member being provided with electrical connection means.

26. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the electrically conductive member comprises a coil arranged around a core of ferromagnetic material.

27. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the electrically conductive member is connected to a power supply.

28. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, wherein first and the second mechanical fixation means constitute electrical connection means.

29. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first and the second mechanical fixation means are connected to a power supply.

30. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first and second mechanical fixation means and a conductive member of the magnetic field generation device are connected to a common power supply.

31. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first and second mechanical fixation means are connected to a power supply, and a conductive member of the magnetic field generation device is arranged below the component, and extending essentially parallel with the component, wherein the current direction in the component is opposite to that in the conductive member.

32. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, further comprising support members arranged and adapted to support the component when the magnetic field forces are not active.

33. (New) The fixation and positioning device as claimed in claim 19, comprising a spraying member for producing a coating on the component.